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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10429]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the Agency's function; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. Type of Information Collection Request: New collection (request for a new OMB control number). Title of Information Collection: Surveys of Physicians and Home Health Agencies to Assess Access Issues for Specific Medicare Beneficiaries as Defined in Section 3131(d) of the ACA. Use: This collection is part of a study called for under section 3131(d) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The study is focused on two major issues: (1) supporting CMS' efforts to improve payment accuracy and (2) understanding issues of access for the ACA populations under the existing home health prospective payment system. The study team's analytic plan focuses on understanding payment accuracy for the specific study

populations through claims and cost data analyses, which will reflect payments and costs for patients who have gained access to home health care. In order to understand access issues for the ACA defined populations, the study team proposes using survey instruments to better understand the characteristics of Medicare beneficiaries who are not able to gain access to or have experienced delays in gaining access to home health services.

As a new collection, the information collected is expected to support CMS' efforts to improve the home health prospective payment system payment accuracy for vulnerable populations and thereby ensure the payment system does not inadvertently cause avoidable access problems. The questions are designed to provide insights into access issues for vulnerable populations that cannot be learned through analyses of administrative data.

Form Number: CMS-10429 (OCN: 0938-New). Frequency: Once. Affected Public: Private Sector (business or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions). Number of Respondents: 875. Total Annual Responses: 292. Total Annual Hours: 73. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Kristy Chu at 410-786-8953. For all other issues call 410-786-1326.)

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS Web Site address at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received by the OMB desk officer at the address below, no later than 5 p.m. on **[insert date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register.]**

OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

Attention: CMS Desk Officer

Fax Number: (202) 395-6974

E-mail: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov

Dated: June 22, 2012

Martique Jones

Director, Regulations Development Group, Division-B,
Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs

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